network), Fibre Optic and digital microwave.

— Extensive computerisation of Telecom. services.

— Use of improved computerised network management techniques.

— The 8th Plan proposals envisage:

(i) replacement of 14 lakh lines (inclusive of 3.48 lakh lines of manual exchanges) in the country including around 76,000 lines in Kerala (Kerala exchanges have been fully automatised by 31-3-90).

(ii) provision of 2000 Kms. of ducting for the country out of which 60 Kms. are proposed in Kerala.

(iii) around 94 per cent of the proposed addition of local switching equipment by digital electronic equipment, all over the country including Kerala.

(iv) 21750 Rkms of fibre optic systems out of which 1170 Rkms in Kerala.

(v) 3 SBT systems at Cochin, Trivandrum and Kozhikode to modernise telegraph services.

(b) No, Sir.

Declaration of Kashmir Valley as disturbed area

609. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have declared the entire Kashmir Valley as disturbed area;

(b) whether foreign journalists and tourists are being allowed to visit the Valley; if so, their number from March, 1991 till date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no proper precaution was taken to protect the Israeli group of tourists from terrorists attack in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) whether there was any bargain with the militants in the Valley in securing the release of Israeli tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1497 foreigners including 89 journalists visited Srinagar during the period from March to 18th July, 1991.

(c) Provision for security to tourists is part of the overall scheme to maintain law & order in Kashmir Valley. The Government has taken a number of stringent administrative measures to contain terrorism

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों का निजीकरण

610. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री राधा किशन मालवीय :

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के निजीकरण के प्रश्न पर विचार करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या कुछ नए राजमार्ग निर्माण हेतु निजी संगठनों को आवंटित किये जाएंगे ?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) से (ग) जी, हां, ।